104TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 54

Proposing a balanced budget constitutional amendment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 2, 1996

Mr. Wyden (for himself, Mr. Dorgan, Mr. Daschle, Mr. Reid, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Hollings) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a balanced budget constitutional amendment.

- 1 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
- 2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 That the following article is proposed as an amendment
- 4 to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
- 5 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-
- 6 tion when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
- 7 the several States within seven years after the date of its
- 8 submission to the States for ratification:
- 9 "Article —
- 10 "Section 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall
- 11 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-

- 1 fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall
- 2 provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts
- 3 by a rollcall vote.
- 4 "Section 2. The limit on the debt of the United
- 5 States held by the public shall not be increased, unless
- 6 three-fifths of the whole number of each House shall pro-
- 7 vide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.
- 8 "Section 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President
- 9 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the
- 10 United States Government for that fiscal year in which
- 11 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.
- "Section 4. No bill to increase revenue shall become
- 13 law unless approved by a majority of the whole number
- 14 of each House by a rollcall vote.
- 15 "Section 5. The Congress may waive the provisions
- 16 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
- 17 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be
- 18 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is
- 19 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and
- 20 serious military threat to national security and is so de-
- 21 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the
- 22 whole number of each House, which becomes law.
- 23 "Section 6. The Congress shall enforce and imple-
- 24 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely
- 25 on estimates of outlays and receipts. The judicial power

- 1 of the United States shall not extend to any case or con-
- 2 troversy arising under this article except as may be specifi-
- 3 cally authorized by legislation adopted pursuant to this
- 4 section.
- 5 "Section 7. Total receipts shall include all receipts
- 6 of the United States Government except those derived
- 7 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of
- 8 the United States Government except for those for repay-
- 9 ment of debt principal. The receipts (including attrib-
- 10 utable interest) and outlays of the Federal Old-Age and
- 11 Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance
- 12 Trust Funds (as and if modified to preserve the solvency
- 13 of the Funds) used to provide old age, survivors, and dis-
- 14 abilities benefits shall not be counted as receipts or outlays
- 15 for purposes of this article.
- 16 "Section 8. This article shall take effect beginning
- 17 with fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year begin-
- 18 ning after its ratification, whichever is later.".

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